



James W. McCord, security chief for Nixon's re-election committee who served 69 days of a 1- to 5-year prison term for

his role in the Watergate burglary. He lives in Colorado.



Herbert W. Kalmbach, Nixon's personal lawyer who served 191 days of 6- to 18-month sentence for campaign law violations.

He later returned to his law practice and is now retired in Newport Beach, Calif.



Leon Jaworski, the Houston lawyer who succeeded Cox as special prosecutor. He returned to his law practice in Texas and wrote two books. He died in 1982.



Former Rep. Peter Rodino, D-N.J., chairman of the House Judiciary Committee that voted to recommend Nixon's

impeachment. He is retired and living in New Jersey.

SOURCE: Associated Press



Sen. Sam Ervin, D-N.C., chairman of the Senate Watergate Committee. After his retirement from the Senate, he lectured and

practiced law in North Carolina. He died in 1985



U.S. District Judge John Sirica, who presided over the main Watergate cases. After retiring from the bench, he wrote

a book entitled *To Set the Record Straight*.

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Miami Herald staff

20 years later, Watergate's effects remain chiseled into U.S. psyche

WATERGATE, FROM 1A

more. You must resign. It is over. And it was. And it wasn't.

Twenty years later, shadows still darken the nation's political consciousness. Many citizens remain disillusioned, wary of their leaders. It happened once. It could happen again.

"I was a guy who always thought my country could do no wrong," says Martin Dardis, then chief investigator for Dade State Attorney Richard Gerstein.

"But I have been suspicious of federal agencies ever since. I can't help it. To this day it bothers me. I was embarrassed for the country."

Dardis and Gerstein were the first to link Republican fundraisers to the crisp, sequentially numbered \$100 bills carried by Miami resident Bernard Barker and the others as they fine-tuned wiretaps on Democratic phones in the Watergate complex.

The presidential election of 1972 was five months away. Every poll showed Nixon comfortably ahead of any Democratic contender. But all the president's men were leaving nothing to chance. They would do anything to guarantee his re-election. Anything.

Even Dardis and Gerstein, a savvy investigator and a shrewd politician (who died in April), could not guess where it would lead:

- To disclosures of a widespread campaign to pervert the electoral system and suppress civil liberties.

- To jail terms for the president's closest aides.

- To a president who would sit in the Oval Office and secretly tape himself authorizing, even orchestrating, a cover-up of political crimes.



AIDED WATERGATE PROBE: Ex-investigator Martin Dardis.

After winning re-election, the president of the United States was cited as an unindicted co-conspirator by a grand jury investigating the Watergate cover-up.

Trapped on all sides, facing nearly certain impeachment, Nixon resigned in August 1974. His successor, Gerald Ford, granted him a full, pre-emptive pardon for any crimes he might have committed in office.

It was a tense, frightening time. Even today, Watergate-related phrases elicit shivers from those who remember:

Dirty tricks. Expletive deleted. Nolo contendere. Deep Throat. A sinister force and the 18½-minute gap in a crucial tape. CREEP, acronym for the Committee to Re-Elect the President.

The United States had never experienced anything like it, and it came at a sensitive juncture in history.

Three leaders had been assassinated in the past nine years. The

costly and unpopular Vietnam War raged on. American cities flared with racial and political violence.

The nation craved virtue and idealism in high office; it got craven political opportunism.

What idealism could be found came from a few brave souls in the middle ranks of government service and from, of all places, Congress and the media.

The lessons? According to some, few and fleeting.

"The main lessons were beware of messengers brandishing national security in an overly facile manner," says Greg Bush, assistant history professor at the University of Miami. "And beware of politicians who surround themselves with image makers and what I call 'attention engineers.'"

With another political season upon us, U.M.'s Bush worries that many Americans have not absorbed those lessons.

Dardis, although suspicious of his leaders and embarrassed by what they did 20 years ago reaches deeply when asked what good might have come from it all.

"What I got out of this was that the system worked. What we did was trot out our troubles for the world to look at and we said 'This is how our system works.'"

A similar sentiment comes from a surprising source: Eugenio Rolando Martinez, one of the Watergate burglars from Miami.

"Democracy was tested with Watergate," Martinez says today. "When we think of Watergate we have to think how strong democracy is."

"The heroes of Watergate are the founding fathers of this country who wrote a constitution so strong it withstood all of this."